

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5 and 7 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 5 are amended; and Claims 2-4 and 6 are canceled by the present amendment. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled Claim 4, and Claim 5 is amended to depend from independent Claim 1 instead of canceled Claim 4. Thus, no new matter is presented.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Whinnet et al. (GB-2313257, hereinafter “Whinnet”); Claims 4-5 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; and Claim 7 was indicated as allowed.

As noted above, Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 4, which was indicated as allowed in the outstanding Official Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

As amended Claim 5 depends from amended independent Claim 1, it is also submitted that this claim patentably defines over the applied references. Claim 7 was previously indicated as allowed.

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

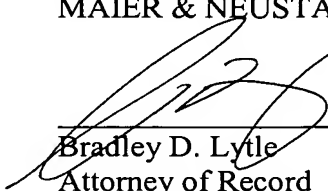
Respectfully submitted,

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